

(a) [A] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR A CANDIDATE FOR A COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, A candidate for any public office who is registered as an independent or who is a member of or affiliated with a partisan organization which is not a political party as defined in this article or who is not a member of a political party whose nominees must be nominated by means of primary elections, may be nominated by petition, as in this section provided. [Nothing in this subsection applies to candidates or nominations for election to county boards of education.]

[(b) A candidate for public office seeking nomination by petition shall file a certificate of candidacy under the provisions of the subtitle "Certificate of Candidacy" of this article with a sworn statement attached that he has on file with the election board or the several boards of the State petitions signed by not less than three per centum (3%) of the registered voters who are eligible to vote for the office for which such nomination by petition is sought. The number of registered voters shall be determined as of the commencement of the four-month period before the primary election for which the nomination is sought. Candidates nominated by petition must pay the fee prescribed in § 4A-6 of this article in the same manner as candidates for nomination at a primary election, with the filing of the certificate of candidacy of the candidate. Such fees shall be disposed of in the same manner as provided in § 4A-8 of this article.]

(B) (1) A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE SEEKING NOMINATION BY PETITION SHALL FILE A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY AT THE TIME AND PLACE AND IN THE MANNER PROVIDED IN SUBTITLE 4A OF THIS ARTICLE AND SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE SUBTITLE, IN THE SAME MANNER AS CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION AT A PRIMARY ELECTION.

(2) IN ORDER TO HAVE THE NAME OF A PROPOSED CANDIDATE PLACED ON THE BALLOT UNDER THIS SECTION, THE CANDIDATE SHALL FILE WITH THE APPROPRIATE BOARD PETITIONS SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 3 PERCENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR THE OFFICE FOR WHICH THE NOMINATION BY PETITION IS SOUGHT. PETITIONS SHALL BE FILED AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL BE DETERMINED AS OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 4-MONTH PERIOD BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR WHICH THE NOMINATION IS SOUGHT.

(C) (1) A PORTION OF A PETITION THAT CONTAINS AT LEAST ONE-THIRD OF THE REQUIRED TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES OF ELIGIBLE REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL BE FILED WITH THE APPROPRIATE BOARD AT THE TIME OF THE FILING OF THE CANDIDATE'S CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY.

(2) THE REMAINDER OF THE PETITION THAT CONTAINS THE BALANCE OF THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF SIGNATURES SHALL BE